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# INDIANA QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF HISTORY

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## EDITORIAL AND MISCELLANEOUS.

### INDIANA ARCHIVES.

A Department of Archives in connection with the State Library, for which a limited appropriation was made some time ago, has at length become a reality, though its permanency, we believe, has not yet been established. Prof. Harlow Lindley, of Earlham College, in whose hands the work has been put, has spent the summer collecting and organizing material. Two features of Professor Lindley's plan that call for especial mention are (1) the discovery and purchase, for the State Library, of historical material; and, (2) the locating of material over the State that can not be purchased, and at least preparing an intelligent bibliography of the same, so that a student working through the library as a bureau of information can get on the track of as wide a range as possible of documents relating to his subject. The need of something of this kind is obvious to all who have attempted to write in Indiana history and aimed to do it with any thoroughness. Only such know the fragmentary and chaotic character of much of the material relating to important phases of our history, and will hail any effective attempt to add to that material. We await with interest the accomplishment of the archives department.

### STATE HOUSE DOCUMENTS.

For many years there has been stored in the basement of the State House a great mass of books and papers relating to the business of the auditor's office from the beginning. These have recently been overhauled, sorted and put in orderly arrangement, with the result that many documents of decided value have been unearthed. Prominent among these are the original books of various land offices of the State, the records of the Jeffersonville office being especially full. A particularly noteworthy find was the unpublished Journal of the territorial House of Representatives of 1813, and this borrows further interest from the date, which was the year of the removal of the territorial capital from

Vincennes. Few particulars, in our published records, are given of that removal. These old records disclose, among other things, that one argument for the removal was the unsafe situation of Vincennes in view of the hostile disposition of the Indians and the necessity of removing the seat of government "to a place where the Archives of State and the claims of individuals should not be endangered." In pursuance of a resolution that the capital "be removed from Vincennes to some convenient place in said Territory," we further find that Lawrenceburgh, Madison, Vevay, Charleston, Jeffersonville, Clarksville and Corydon all advanced their claims to the distinction of which Vincennes was to be shorn. Madison in particular, under the wing of William McFarland, set forth her advantages in a stiff argument, backing the same by the offer of a thousand-dollar bonus.

#### CENTRAL OHIO VALLEY HISTORY CONFERENCE.

With a view to promoting throughout the central Ohio valley a wider interest in local history than now exists, our Ohio friends have taken the initiative and set on foot a plan for a history conference to be held in Cincinnati on November 29 and 30, 1907. Some twelve organizations of Cincinnati, representing history, archæology and kindred interests, are back of this. The aim is to reach out over the territory named and enlist the cooperation of teachers of history, specialists in local history, members of patriotic organizations, etc. Out of it, it is hoped, will come some permanent cooperation among the various historical societies of the Ohio valley. At this writing the program can not be fully and accurately given, but Dr. Reuben Gold Thwaites, of the Wisconsin State Historical Society, and Professor J. A. James, of the Northwestern University, will be the principal speakers. The former will discuss "Local History Societies," and the latter "The Teacher of the Social Sciences." Professor James's paper will be discussed by Professor S. B. Harding, of Indiana University, Dr. B. L. Jones, of the Louisville Manual Training High School, and Professor C. L. Martzloff, of Ohio University. These, respectively, will represent the university, the secondary schools and the grades. Other addresses will be on The Unpublished Collections of the Ohio Valley; Historical and Quasi-historical Literature of the Ohio Valley; Local Historical Periodicals of the Ohio Valley, Past and Present; Pos-

sible Methods of Cooperation; State Aid in Local History Work, and the Historical Work of State Librarians.

LOCAL HISTORY CONTRIBUTIONS.

*Clay County Canal War.*—Captain T. M. Robertson, of Brazil, Indiana, sends us a copy of the *Brazil Daily Times* of date June 21, 1907, containing an interesting account of the old-time trouble between citizens of Clay county and the lower Wabash canal. This article, signed "M. Artz," is said to contain facts hitherto unpublished. We regret that we have not space in this number to reprint it, and may do so at another time. In substance it relates that the canal company, at a risk to public health, maintained near the present town of Saline a great pond, known as Birch Creek reservoir, which covered nearly a thousand acres. Protests being unavailing, in 1854 the embankments and feeder-dam were repeatedly cut, letting out the water and stopping navigation. Governor Wright offered a reward for the perpetrators, only to be ridiculed; the militia was called out, and the trouble was long after known as the "Reservoir War."

*Early Muncie Letters.*—The *Muncie Sunday Star* for June 23, 1907, publishes more than three columns of old letters that have considerable local interest. These were written by Margaret Blount, of Muncie, and extend in time from 1826 to 1864. These letters, well-written, sprightly and gossipy, make excellent reading and give graphic and intimate pictures of old "Muncie-town" and its surroundings.

*Historical Sketches of Cass County.*—In our last issue we noticed a series of articles by W. S. Wright, on the early history of Logansport and Cass county, that have been running in the *Logansport Journal*. Since then we are in receipt of a circular announcing that these sketches, along with papers that have been read before the Historical Society of Logansport, have been published by Mr. Wright (who is secretary of the society) in a book of two hundred pages, covering a wide variety of themes relating to early Cass county, such as Pioneer Days; Indian Wars; the Mexican, Civil and Spanish Wars; School and Church Sketches; the Old Swimmin' Holes; Bands of Other Days; Early Transportation and Early Families. The volume may be had for \$1.50 of W. S. Wright, Logansport, Ind.